

It's a Diamond Christmas at Independent Jewellers

INDEPENDENT JEWELLERS
STILL THE BIGGEST & STILL THE BEST... Place to Shop for Christmas

GREAT GIFT IDEAS AT:
WWW.INDEPENDENTJEWELLERS.NET

The world's largest global newspaper

metro

EDMONTON • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

metronews.

Celebrity Buzz



Watts gives birth to a second child
pg 18

5 vehicles torched in bizarre arson

DAMAGES Five vehicles were damaged by a string of arsons Sunday.

The first fire lit up the night sky on a quiet residential street around 3:30 a.m. A car parked in the driveway of a home on 153rd Avenue and 72nd Street was doused with an igniter. The fire caused a minivan next to it to burst into flames, as well as a car in the garage.

The second blazing vehicle was spotted in a field on 167th Avenue and 50th Street around 4:20 a.m.

An SUV was spotted on fire at 113rd Street and 166th Avenue minutes later.

Police are searching for suspects. **METRO EDMONTON**

Health pg 16



Holiday romance

Entertainment pg 17

Brandy gets personal

Sports pg 14

Junior team named

ShareYourViews

edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Performance ESO brings holiday cheer to unlikely places



Nora Bumanis, a harpist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, performs with other ESO players — who call themselves E-SWAT — in the lobby of the ATCO building on 105 Street yesterday. For the fourth year in a row, the E-SWAT team is spreading the holiday cheer by performing a series of speedy concerts in unexpected places, such as downtown offices.

Thefts up in winter

Police warn people to be cautious in parking lots

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

As temperatures drop, vehicles begin to vanish in greater numbers, police said yesterday.

Edmonton was recently named in a Statistics Canada report as having the third-highest vehicle-theft frequency in the country, after Winnipeg and Abbotsford, B.C.

While vehicle theft has decreased in the 780 over

Tips

- Edmonton City Police suggest locking all windows and doors, getting a Club for your vehicle's steering wheel, not leaving vehicles running and unattended, and buying an alarm system.

the past year, sub-zero temperatures and careless drivers draw thieves from hiding, said police spokesman Dean Parthenis.

"Likely because of the holiday season, everyone has their minds on shopping, spending time with family and leaving town, and they tend to forget about the basics, and that starts with common sense on care and maintenance of your vehicle," he said.

As temperatures drop, drivers are more liable to keep their engines idling when running inside quickly, becoming vulnerable to theft.

"Unfortunately, because

more people are shopping and at malls, you'll notice parking lots are full of vehicles. There are people out there looking for opportunities and those that are vulnerable," Parthenis said. "The ones who aren't paying attention are the most vulnerable."

Earlier this month, an 83-year-old woman was slammed to the ground by a man who jumped in her car and took off. Police are still searching for the 2003 blue Ford Taurus.

Toddler is safe after car collision

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

CHARGES Police say a two-year-old tot will remain with his family after his father crashed into a parked vehicle in Mill Woods on Sunday night, while the man was allegedly high on drugs as the child was sitting in the backseat.

The man was driving the SUV when it mounted the north curb on 38th Avenue and 23rd Street before it skidded on a boulevard for several feet, striking down a tree shortly before 8:30 p.m.

Police say the man later backed the vehicle out of the boulevard and mowed down a fence, crashing into the back of another vehicle.

That's where a number of "citizens" pinned down the suspect until police arrived, said Edmonton police spokeswoman Patricia Thenu.

After police removed the man from the vehicle, they allegedly found some crack cocaine inside, along with the toddler, said Thenu.

"The baby wasn't harmed in any way," said Thenu, who added the police service's child at risk response team was called in to the scene.

Dzafer Majdancic, 28, was charged with impaired driving, dangerous driving and possession of a controlled substance.

LASER VISION CORRECTION

Starting at
\$490 /eye*

NEW FINANCING

\$0	\$0	0%
Down	Payments	Interest

UNTIL JANUARY 2010*

FREE Consultation
780-702-2020

Dr. Richard Leger
MD, FRCSC
40 000 procedures

EDMONTON: Edmonton City Center Mall, 10200 - 102 Avenue, Suite C107

Halifax | Montréal | Toronto | Winnipeg | Calgary | Vancouver

www.lasikmd.com

Mistletoe or not, with deals this good, you'll want to kiss somebody.

For a limited time, get three amazing offers in one great sale.

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE • bell.ca

50% OFF select smartphones¹ + **50% OFF** rate plans for 3 months¹ + **\$50** accessories credit²



3G BlackBerry® Curve™
8330 smartphone

\$49⁹⁵

with a \$45 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term³
(\$549.95 no term)



3G Samsung Instinct™

\$49⁹⁵

with a \$100 Fun bundle discount on a 3-yr. term⁴
(\$399.95 no term)



Samsung Cleo™

\$24⁹⁵

on a 3-yr. term¹
(\$274.95 no term)



LG Rumour™

\$0

on a 3-yr. term¹
(\$249.95 no term)



Bell shopping just got better

Available at the following Bell stores:

BANFF
Cascade Plaza

CALGARY
509 - 2nd Street, S.W.
1002 17th Ave. S.W.
1905 Centre Street
4801 Westwinds Dr.
9650 Harvest Hills Blvd. N.E.
10603 107th Ave.
Beacon Hill Center
Chinook Centre
Crowfoot Crossing
Deer Valley Shopping Centre
Deerfoot Meadows
Deerfoot Outlet Mall
Eaton Centre
Forest Lawn Shopping Centre
Market Mall
Marlborough Mall -kiosk
North Hill Shopping Centre -kiosk
Northland Village
Shawnessy Village
Southcentre Mall
Southcentre Mall -Kiosk
Southpointe Shopping Centre
South Trail Crossing
Sunnridge Mall
Westbrook Mall

CANMORE
105 - 802 Bow Valley Trail

EDMONTON
3918 White Mud & 17th St.
6143 28th Ave.
6774 170th St.
10157 - 101 St.
10603 107th Ave.
11150 148th St.
17551 100th Ave.
12804 82nd St.
14808 Stony Plain Rd
18563 Stony Plain Rd
Abbotsfield Shoppers Mall
Bonnie Doon
Capilano Mall
Chartwell Shopping Centre
Edmonton City Centre
Edmonton City Centre kiosk II
Kingsway Garden Mall
Londonderry Mall
Mill Woods Town Centre
Northgate Centre
Northgate Centre kiosk
Sherwood Park Mall
South Edmonton Common
South Park Centre
Southgate Mall -kiosk
St. Albert Centre
St. Albert Trail at 137 Ave.
West Edmonton Mall
Westmount Centre
Whyte Avenue at 107 St.

EDSON
330 45th St. Unit 104

FORT MCMURRAY
19 Riedel St.
Peter Pond Shopping Centre

GRANDE PRAIRIE
Prairie Mall

LEDUC
4916 50th Ave.

LETHBRIDGE
Lethbridge Smartcenters
Park Place Shopping Centre

LLOYDMINSTER
Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT
Carry Drive Plaza
Medicine Hat Mall

RED DEER
Bower Place Shopping Centre
Parkland Mall

SPRUCE GROVE
Creekside Centre

WHITECOURT
3301 37 Ave

Also available at these retailers:

CALGARY
Connect All

LETHBRIDGE
Protek Communications

COSTCO
WHOLESALE

booth
The Wireless Shop

WIRELESS etc...

WIRELESSWAVE

Offer ends December 24, 2008. Available with compatible devices within Bell Mobility high speed mobile network coverage areas. Other monthly fees, i.e., e9-1-1 (75c), system access (not a government fee) (\$8.95), and one-time device activation (\$35) apply. Long distance and roaming charges (including foreign taxes) may apply outside your local area. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. (2) With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. Rebate applies on accessories before taxes in-store, on the Web or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. (3) With new activation on a monthly voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of \$45/mo. (4) With new activation on a monthly voice plan with a min. Fun 15 bundle. Rebate applies on device before taxes in-store, on the Web or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. You must keep the Fun bundle for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of \$99 will be charged on your account. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Samsung Instinct and Samsung Cleo are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Rumour is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc.

Holiday donations need replenishing in wake of flood

Pipes burst at the Bissell Centre yesterday, flooding the basement and destroying mounds of donated toys and clothing. To help replenish donations, call 780-423-2285. **METRO EDMONTON**

Local

"We don't have to go out and reinvent or invent a new model."



Long-term health care

Alberta Health Minister Ron Liepert, left, commenting on the new long-term care plan announced yesterday that will provide seniors with more services and create an environment where more seniors and the disabled are able to live in their own homes. **METRO EDMONTON**

Homeless finding alternatives



Ramona Sharphead comes in from the cold to enjoy a hot meal with hundreds of others at the Hope Mission on 106 Avenue and 99 Street last night.

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

Edmonton's homeless population hasn't been flocking to shelters in recent sub-zero temperatures, as many are seeking alternate ways to keep warm.

With more than 900 available overnight spots, the Hope Mission was hovering around 600 every night over the weekend.

A recent count by Home-ward Trust concluded there are more than 3,000 homeless people living in Edmonton, a number that's up 18 per cent from 2006.

While the number of homeless seeking refuge from temperatures around -30C seems low in comparison to the population,

Hope Mission officials say it's not surprising.

"When it's very cold, they find somewhere to go," said spokesman Peter Gerber. "People have to resort to very low and desperate means to find a way to shelter themselves. In some sad cases, women on the street involved in prostitution are able to find a place to go."

"When it's very cold, they find somewhere to go."

Peter Gerber

While the Hope's regular shelter spaces were easy to come by, space reserved for severely intoxicated men was over capacity every night.

"Some people party and drink and fall into the street — that's when it gets dangerous," Gerber said.

EMS spokeswoman Jill McCormick said emergency crews responded to 20 cold-exposure calls over the weekend, ranging from frostbite to hypothermia.

News in brief

HOLIDAY Santa's Anonymous volunteers are working tirelessly to wrap and distribute thousands of toys for needy children, but have a few items on Santa's wish list. The charity is in need of skateboard helmets, board games and craft kits. The secret Santa charity has had no problem finding eager wrappers this year, but is still looking for delivery drivers. For more information, visit www.santasanonymous.ca.

SENTENCING A man convicted of murdering his then-12-year-old girlfriend's parents and her younger brother will be 50 years old by the time he's eligible for parole, after a judge gave him an automatic lifetime jail sentence in a Medicine Hat courtroom yesterday. Jeremy Steinke, 25, was convicted by a jury of three charges of first-degree-murder earlier this month in relation to the deaths.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Stephen Harper pays tribute to soldiers killed in Afghanistan at metronews.ca/canada

Video Jim Flaherty admits economic situation is worse than predicted a month ago at metronews.ca/canada



Premier wants national trade policy

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

An "internal" trade agreement between provinces and speeding up infrastructure projects should be top priorities for the prime minister's federal budget in January, said Alberta's premier in a letter yesterday.

In the letter sent to the prime minister in advance of next month's first minis-

ter's meeting, Premier Ed Stelmach says an agreement between all provinces

"would reduce consumer costs and make Canada more competitive internationally," even through an economic meltdown has plagued mar-



Ed Stelmach

kets around the world.

"Canada's return to economic health cannot be funded entirely by government deficits," he wrote. "We need economic growth and jobs for the future, and to do this, we need to support an economy that is more productive and competitive."

Stelmach also asked Harper to streamline joint federal and provincial infrastructure approvals to fast-track government projects.

MRL CAPITAL TRUST

Invest in the Canadian and U.S. Real Estate Markets



\$1,000.00 Gets You Started
R.S.P Eligible
In Non-leveraged Investments

Bringing You to the Front Line of Real Estate Investment From The Comfort Of Your Armchair

Agent Inquiries Welcome

"Bad news is an investors best friend. It lets you buy a slice of America's future at a marked down price."

Warren Buffet - CNN Money



For information and seminar registration call 877-399-8886 or go to www.mrlcompanies.com



DIPLOMA PROGRAMS *

HEALTH CARE

Acupuncture ☆ | Massage Therapy ☆ | Medical Office Administrator ☆ | Pharmacy Technician ☆ | Early Childhood Education ☆

TECHNOLOGY

Network and Internet Security Specialist ☆ | Help Desk Support Analyst ☆

BUSINESS & LEGAL

Paralegal ☆ | Business Administration Management ☆ | Professional Legal Assistant ☆ | Accounting & Payroll Administrator ☆ | Oil & Gas Administrative Assistant ☆ | Accounting Technician ☆ | Travel and Tourism ☆ | Policing and Protection Services ☆

- Financial Aid Available to Qualified Applicants
- Career Services Assistance
- High Graduate Employment Rates
- 9 Campuses in AB
- No Waitlists – Start Now!

* Not All Programs Available At All Campuses.

☆ Pertains To A Reeves College Program
☆ Pertains To A CDI College Program

REEVES COLLEGE
Guiding Your Success

REEVES EDMONTON 780-990-1650
WWW.REEVESCOLLEGE.CA

CDI COLLEGE
BUSINESS • TECHNOLOGY • HEALTH CARE

1 800-890-9678
WWW.CDICOLLEGE.CA

More than two-thirds of the 2,100 striking Canada Post support workers voted against the latest offer from the Crown corporation over the weekend. The workers have been on strike since Nov. 17. Results of the vote were released yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada



Prisoners changing: StatsCan

The percentage of prison population that are women and aboriginals has been steadily increasing, says a Statistics Canada report released yesterday. Between 2001-02 and 2006-07, the number of women on remand has risen by 36 per cent. Over the same period, the number of aboriginals on remand has increased by 23 per cent.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

kaj
CLOTHING FOR TALL WOMEN
10125 124 ST. EDMONTON AB T5N1P5
PHONE: 780.702.7122
KJ.CLOTHING.CA

tk company
ANNUAL WINTER SALE NOW ON!
10127 - 124 St, Edmonton
780-488-7277
Hours: Mon-Fri. 10-5:30
Thurs. 10-8, Sat. 10-5
www.tkclothing.ca

floc boutique
10106 124 Street,
Edmonton
780-447-9964
FlocBoutique.com
Casual • Work Wear • Footwear
Party Wear • Accessories

Ginger WOMEN'S CLOTHING + ACCESSORIES
50% OFF SALE
SATURDAY, DEC. 27
50-70% OFF
ALL MENS CLOTHING*
10116 124 STREET
780 488 3344
GINGERAPPAREL.CA
*Some exceptions apply.

PM says deficit needed

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the Conservative government will have to run a budget deficit to bring in billions of dollars worth of recovery programs for the hard-hit economy.

"We're talking about spending billions of dollars that was not planned," he told CTV's Atlantic affiliate in a preview of the Jan. 27 budget.

"We want to bring in some recovery programs

"We want to bring in some recovery programs that will help us sustain economic activity."

PM Stephen Harper

that will help us sustain economic activity and avoid some of the worst problems, particularly in some the sectors that you're familiar with," Harper remarked.

It was an apparent reference to the struggling manufacturing, autos and

forestry businesses.

"We're going to have to run a deficit, do some spending measures we hadn't planned on doing, but I think, if we do those things, we should be able to come out of this (economic downturn) pretty strong in due course."

Earlier, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty met with senior Liberals to discuss the possible contents of the budget. Liberal MP John McCallum said during the closed door meeting Flaherty admitted economic forecasts in his November update were too optimistic. And Flaherty appears more inclined toward bringing in an economic stimulus package than in months past, McCallum added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Maple Leaf Cleaning an image



A worker at a Toronto Maple Leaf plant shows new cleaning methods used on the slicers. The company allowed media to tour the plant yesterday as part of a campaign to restore public confidence after this year's listeriosis outbreak which killed more than 20 Canadians.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

David Radler free on parole

HOLLINGER David Radler, the long-time pal of fallen media baron Conrad Black who rose alongside him to wealth and power then turned against his former boss, was handed full parole yesterday after serving 10 months of his 29-month sentence for fraud.

Radler, the former Chicago Sun-Times publisher and president of Hollinger International, got caught along with Black and other executives over charges they siphoned funds from the company.

Radler, 67, pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud in 2005 and paid back more than \$61 million US in restitution after striking a plea agreement with federal investigators. He was fined \$250,000.

"I made mistakes and they hurt me and my family and others," Radler said in Chicago court at his plea-agreement hearing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

EMPLOYMENT Canada would lose at least 582,000 jobs — mostly in Ontario — within five years if the Detroit Three automakers go out of business, according to an Ontario report obtained by Torstar News Service. The review, set to be released today, warns the collapse of General Motors,

Ford, and Chrysler would send lasting shock waves through the economy.

HEALTH Colonoscopies are only effective at catching cancer that develops on the left side of the colon, says a study published yesterday. Researchers say that while the test is valuable, it only

catches about one per cent of cancers on the right side.

ECONOMY The federal government, under pressure to aid a slowing economy, has asked the provinces to submit infrastructure projects that can get underway quickly, officials said yesterday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Give  **card**  **the right gift that says it all!**

At participating McDonald's® restaurants in Canada. Use of the McDonald's® Card is governed by terms and conditions found on the back of the card and at www.mcdonalds.ca.
©2008 McDonald's

McDonald's  **i'm lovin' it®**

Get a bundle you can bank on.



Most reliable
home phone‡

+



All
digital TV

+



Most secure
High Speed access**

Save over 15%* with a
bundle you can bank on.

From \$80.95/mo.* for 1 year,
with 1 month FREE†

 **TELUS**
the future is friendly®

Call 310-1144 or visit telus.com/bundle or your nearest TELUS authorized dealer.

TELUS AUTHORIZED DEALERS

Malls

Kingsway Garden Mall
West Edmonton Mall
Southgate Mall
Londonderry Mall
City Centre Mall
Northgate Mall

Downtown

TELUS Plaza North

West

14903 - 118th Ave.

St. Albert

St. Albert Centre
Unit 30 - 200 St. Albert Rd.
20 Muir Dr.

*Offer available until December 31, 2008 to residential clients in select locations with a 1, 2 or 3 year TELUS TV service agreement. Starting on month 13 bundle rate will be \$85.95/month. Prices may vary for existing clients on a TELUS Long Distance, High Speed Internet, or TV service agreement. †1 month of free services available to clients who have not subscribed to TELUS High Speed Internet or TV in the past 90 days. TELUS reserves the right to modify the channel line-up, prices and packages without notice. Minimum system requirements apply. ‡Based on total service disruptions and outages experienced by clients in the past year. **Defined as the most comprehensive suite of hardware and software security tools. © 2008 TELUS.

More than 330,000 homes and businesses in the U.S. northeast remained without power yesterday, four days after a fierce snow and ice storm left more than 1.3 million in the dark. National Grid Plc., which owns gas and power networks in the New York and New England region, said it hoped to restore power by midweek. **REUTERS**

World



Kennedy seeks Clinton's Senate seat?

Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of slain former U.S. president John F. Kennedy, is pursuing the Senate seat of Hillary Clinton, who has been nominated secretary of state, civil-rights activist Al Sharpton said yesterday. Kennedy, 51, spent part of her childhood in the White House until her father was assassinated in 1963 and since then has kept a relatively low public profile. **REUTERS**

News in brief

CHAVEZ Venezuela's anti-U.S. President Hugo Chavez said yesterday that an Iraqi reporter who flung his shoes at President George W. Bush was courageous.

FRANCE French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy is suing a fashion chain for selling bags emblazoned with nude images of her in the latest legal action over the presidential couple's image. Bruni-Sarkozy's lawyer said the former model was demanding 125,000 euros (\$168,300 US) in damages.

DISEASE The number of deaths in a cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe has risen to 978, the United Nations said yesterday, while the number of suspected cases stood at 18,413.

ARMS Russian and U.S. officials yesterday met for talks, which Moscow's negotiator said could open doors for a new deal in nuclear arms control with Washington's next administration in 2009. **REUTERS**

Auto bailout by tomorrow?

The Bush administration could act as early as tomorrow to approve an automaker bailout from its bank rescue fund, with conditions likely to reflect at least those approved by the House last week, key lawmakers and other sources said yesterday.

A Treasury Department official said the agency and auto company executives continued to review financial and other information, and that no decision had been made. The White House is actively involved in the matter, officials said.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said, however, the government would have to be satisfied the industry could survive and compete in order to receive help.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, says the administration will likely use part of the \$700-billion US fund established in October to stabilize the financial services sector, rather than pushing the companies into bankruptcy, as some lawmakers have urged.

"I think all the signals coming from the White House are that they know that bankruptcy is not an option," Pelosi said.

REUTERS

A NEW ITEM EVERY DAY!
VISIT WWW.THEBAY.COM/TODAY TO SEE EACH DAY'S OFFER

TODAY ONLY!

TUESDAY, DEC. 16TH

75% OFF

Luggage by
RICARDO BEVERLY HILLS "SANTA BARBARA 3"
SWISS BY WENGER "LUGANO"
ATLANTIC "EMBASSY"
SKYWAY "VISIONS 2" & "FREEPORT 3"
PINK RIBBON

Luggage Collections
Reg. \$60-\$250
Sale \$15-\$62.50

Excludes all 97¢ price endings.
No dealers.



Shop early. Don't be disappointed. Offer available while quantities last. No rainchecks.

Selection will vary by store. Savings are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. See in-store for details.

the Bay

WWW.THEBAY.COM

Greece Second week of protests



Protesters kick a policeman who detained another protester during clashes outside the police headquarters in Athens yesterday. Police fired tear gas at small groups of protesters who threw stones in the second week of anti-government demonstrations since a policeman shot dead a teenager. **REUTERS**

Impeachment inquiry to begin over Blagojevich

CORRUPTION The Illinois House of Representatives voted yesterday to begin an impeachment inquiry into Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who is accused of trying to profit from selling the Senate seat left vacated by president-elect Barack Obama.

The inquiry, approved 113-0, will be placed in the hands of a special committee. If it determines that impeachment is warranted, the House would vote on whether to impeach, to be followed by a trial in the state senate.

If convicted at trial, the governor could be forced from office. **REUTERS**

LOCAL

Publisher, Steve Shrout
Acting Managing Editor, Darren Krause

Distribution Manager, Jim Hillman

NATIONAL

Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Editor-in-Chief, Dianne Rinehart

Art Director, Laila Hakim

National Sales Director, Susan Courtney
Interactive/Marketing Dir., Jodi Brown

Comment & Views

Comment

Are we still a colony?

National Report

Lawrence Martin



It isn't over yet. The Harper government's unfathomable fumble — the fiscal update fiasco — has wreaked much

havoc. But more is to come.

At the moment the prorogation of Parliament happened, it looked like the Governor General and the prime minister would get a pass. The country was awash in indignation over the prospect of the Bloc Québécois being part of a new coalition government. Stephen Harper, the prime

minister who granted Quebec nation status, was nevertheless able to do a brilliant job of demonizing the Bloc and framing the debate around the separatist issue.

But now that the dust is settling, a settling of accounts could be in store.

Recall what happened. In a closed-door meeting, the Governor General, at the behest of the prime minister, shut down Parliament to save him from a confidence vote and the certain defeat of his government.

It's what's known as democracy Canadian-style. Writing from Paris in The

Ottawa Citizen, Keith Spicer summed up the charade as "Zimbabwe Run By The Queen." Abroad, he said, Canada is being mocked as a colony.

How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever?

On the CBC, Allan Gregg invoked the Robert Mugabe comparison.

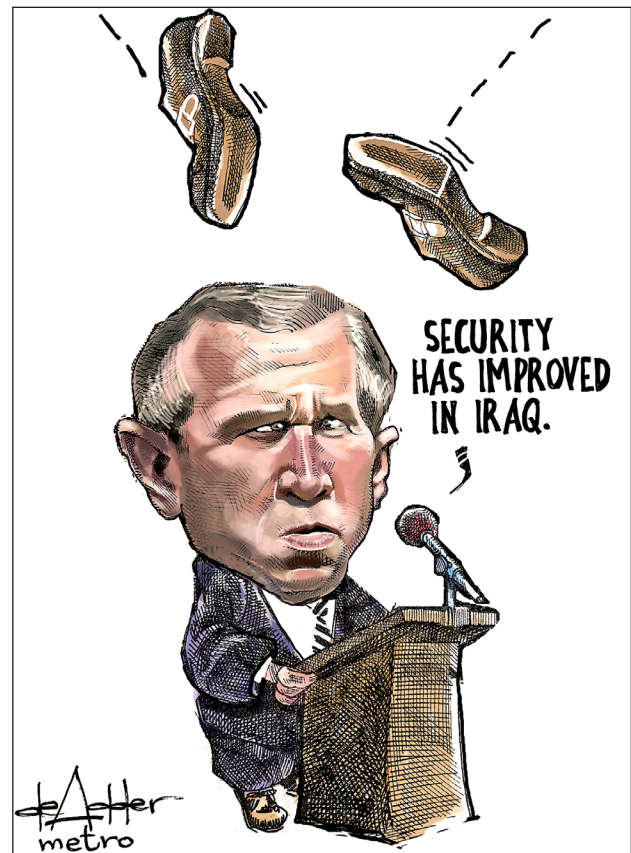
They and many others wonder something. How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever? Who was in the room? What kind of pressure did Harper bring to

bear? What about the suggestion that advisers for each side had basically agreed on the outcome before Harper even entered Rideau Hall that day?

As for Michaëlle Jean, she and her Monarchic ways are taking a hit. She may have made the right call on prorogation. But is she too regal to come forward and speak to her subjects about it? Are we not beyond century No. 17?

In short order, after the coming budget, she could well be making another decision of equal magnitude for the country. Her office shouldn't be allowed to treat us like a bunch of patsies bowing at the feet of her closed-door proclamations.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Ezra Levant column in Metro 'saddens' reader

Re: How the coalition helped propel Harper in polls (Dec. 9)

Quotes by Ezra Levant included, "Polls showing that Canadians deeply oppose the coalition..." and "Harper has skyrocketed to his highest ever level of support."

Wait a second, have I missed something? Am I wrong or did at one point 42 per cent of Canadians support the coalition? I remember Canada was deeply divided about the coalition. And by my understanding, Harper was not too popular in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario.

I am saddened to find such a right-wing column in my Metro (Levant is a Conservative and Reform party activist who lives in Calgary) and I find it only has a place if the paper offers the same space to a different view.

MELANY GAUVIN, OTTAWA

Invest money to create a Canadian auto industry

Why rescue the Big 3? Ford, General Motors and

Chrysler are on the verge of bankruptcy.

If we are going to spend billions of dollars on the auto industry, it should be used to build our own auto manufacturing industry and use Canadian ingenuity to compete on the world stage.

As a Canadian taxpayer, I would prefer that my money be invested in starting a new, innovative auto industry rather than going to supporting jobs in the U.S.

ARCHIE MCLACHLAN, BRAMPTON, ONT.

Queen should not have been dragged into political arena

To say that I was appalled at Paul Sullivan's article (Dec. 10) on the abdication of the monarchy is an understatement.

The Queen's role in a constitutional monarchy, which we are in Canada, is to "warn, encourage and to advise" and not dictate as your article purported.

Mr. Sullivan has drawn the monarch into a political arena where she does not belong. The sovereignty is above politics and acts as a safeguard in our system.

REGINA SILVA ROBINSON, TORONTO

Views

The deception behind indigenous cultural preservation

Frances Widdowson & Albert Howard

In current discussions about aboriginal policy, it is generally assumed that land claims and self-government are the best way to address native grievances and achieve social justice.

This policy direction, however, was not initiated by native people themselves; it has resulted from a long historical process, whereby non-aboriginal missionaries, consultants, lawyers and anthropologists have proposed initiatives that act to maintain aboriginal marginalization. This "aboriginal industry" thrives on aboriginal misery because native isolation from the mainstream ensures that a large segment of the aboriginal population will be perpetually in need of "help."

The processes advocated by the aboriginal industry maintain aboriginal isolation because it encourages people to look backward to

a romanticized past rather than focusing on the future.

Aboriginal traditions, in fact, are viable only in the context of hunting and gathering or horticulture — economic systems that are much smaller, less productive and simpler in organization than those found in modern states. If Aboriginal Peoples are to enjoy a high standard of living and the choice of participating in a variety of occupations, this cannot be facilitated by revitalizing customs associated with an earlier period of human history.

The reactionary character of these initiatives has not been recognized because aboriginal industry inspired research disguises the undeveloped nature of aboriginal traditions; accusations of "racism" are then deployed to attack anyone

who dares to question the deception that is being perpetrated. Developing an understanding of the actual

Developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address aboriginal deprivation.

results of indigenous cultural preservation cannot occur because intimidation and self-censorship are smothering debate.

Acknowledging the developmental difference between hunting and gathering and modern economies is also avoided because it is contrived as being demeaning to native people. The recognition that pre-contact aboriginal cultures lacked technologies such as iron, the wheel and a written language, and that this contributed to their eventual economic and political subordination, is seen as justifying the terrible harm that resulted from colonization. But identifying the factors that have enabled one group to op-

press another does not justify the result. Instead, developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address Aboriginal deprivation.

In fact, the lack of candour in discussions about aboriginal dependency precludes the development of a strategy to address it.

Instead of investigating how government programs can be designed to encourage Aboriginal Peoples' participation in the wider society, it is now maintained that they should cultivate their own "justice," "science," and "medicine" in isolation from modern requirements.

This bolsters the diversion of funds to the aboriginal industry and opportunistic native leaders, while the majority of the aboriginal population remains mired in poverty and despair.

Frances Widdowson is a faculty member in the department of policy studies at Mount Royal College, and Albert Howard is a teacher and writer. Both live in Calgary.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

YOUR NUMBER ONE WATCH STOP:
CANADA'S BEST SELECTION
OF WATCHES IS AT THE BAY

BOSS
HUGO BOSS

\$185



\$250



BOSS
HUGO BOSS

ANNE KLEIN

ARMANI

ARMANI
EXCHANGE

BETSEY
JOHNSON

BUFFALO

CALVIN KLEIN

DIESEL

DKNY

ESQUIRE

EXPEDITION

FOSSIL

GUESS

IRONMAN

KENNETH
COLE

LACOSTE

MARC ECKO

MICHAEL
KORS

MOVADO

NAUTICA

NIKE

PHILIPPE
STARCK

PUMA

ROOTS

SKAGEN

SWATCH

TOMMY
HILFIGER

AND MORE...

Only available until Dec. 18th at
the Southgate location.

the Bay

WWW.THEBAY.COM

metro

metronews.ca

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

8

Odwalla and vitaminwater going calorie-free, naturally
Coca-Cola is expected to launch versions of its Odwalla juices and vitaminwater drinks with rebiana, a natural, calorie-free sweetener. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Correction in condo market coming, economist predicts

Prominent Toronto housing economist Will Dunning is warning of a "substantial correction" in the city's overheated condominium market.

The impact will be felt particularly in the condominium market, says Dunning. By the end of September, the economist estimates there were a loom-

ing 33,919 condos under construction in the Toronto census metropolitan area.

"This very large pending inventory is setting the stage for a substantial correction," he said in a sobering report looking at the rental and condo market. Toronto condominium starts are normally in the 10,000 to 12,000 range an-

nually, but a bottleneck in construction from record sales in prior years has a significant number of units still to be completed, according to the analyst.

Finicky condo investors are already beginning to sell in central Toronto, up by 75 per cent in November compared to a year earlier, he says. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Automotive slump a boon for fuel cell-makers

AUTOS Fuel-cell pioneers are benefiting from the global decline in vehicle sales.

The platinum used to make catalytic converters that control emissions from car tailpipes are now

at a surplus as demand for automobiles shrinks. The metal, now much cheaper, is being redirected to create the catalyst for chemical reactions in fuel cells for hydrogen cars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

TOYS Mattel Inc. reached a \$12-million US settlement with 39 U.S. states over lead-tainted toys that prompted a health scare in 2007. Last year, Mattel recalled more than 18 million toys made in China because of hazards related to magnets and lead paint. No children were believed to have been harmed by the toys. **REUTERS**



downtown
business
association

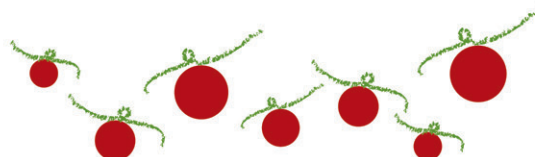
The Downtown Business Association would like to thank their sponsors, volunteers, participants, and the citizens of Edmonton for making this year's 21st Annual Jingle On Indoor Santa Claus Parade such a great success. It's because of these strong partnerships within our community that the Downtown Business Association is able to present such exciting events right here in the downtown core.

The Downtown Business Association would like to wish all Edmontonians a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

jingle on
downtown's
21st annual
indoor santa claus parade



A special thank you goes out to Santa Claus and his elves for coming all the way from the North Pole to wish the children of Edmonton a very Merry Christmas!





**GIVING
LOW
PRICES**
a good
home

C'mon inside
new plans & great deals



NEW PLANS FROM

\$

15

PER MONTH

AND NO
SYSTEM
ACCESS
FEES

PLANS

Include Call Waiting, Conference Call
and blanket coverage from coast to coast

Monthly fees	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$35	\$50	\$70
Minutes² Billed by the second	50	50	100	250	600	2,000
Text messages sent³	50	50	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Text messages received⁴	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Evenings & Weekends⁵ Weeknights from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. and weekends from Friday 7 p.m. to Monday 8 a.m.		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

FULLFIDO™

Finally, plans with
all you need¹ in the city.
Click **fido.ca** for
coverage in your area.

\$40	\$60
2,000 (over 1 h/day)	4,000 (over 2 h/day)
Unlimited	Unlimited
Free	Free

A one-time activation fee of \$35 per line applies.⁶
As a Fido monthly subscriber, you can save up to 15% when you combine your wireless service with eligible Rogers™ services.⁷

If you share our concern for the environment, please use online billing. It'll not only help save our forests, it'll save you money too. For a paper invoice there'll be a \$2 charge per month, which will be donated to plant trees. **Visit fido.ca/billing**

\$0

GET A PHONE on the house

With 2-year Fido™ Agreement

Nokia 2760



Nokia 3500



MOTORAZR V3



Motorola W510



Sony Ericsson W300i



Sony Ericsson Z310a



And all this Fidocare is on the house



1. WE HAVE NO EXTRA MONTHLY FEES

With Fido's new plans, there are no system access or extra network fees. And without these extra charges, your monthly bill will be easier to live with.

2. WE HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR BILL

If your budget is tight, don't worry. We'll proactively send you a free text message after you hit 75% and 100% of your plan's allotted local minutes.

3. CHOOSE THE COMMITMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU

We don't want you to feel locked in. That's why you can choose a 2-year Fido™ Agreement or no agreement at all, if you're not into commitments. All this, on just about every one of our phones. Plus feel free to change your plan any time.

4. WE GIVE BACK EVERY TIME YOU USE YOUR PHONE

You'll earn FidoDollars™ every time you use your phone which can help you upgrade to a new phone sooner. At Fido, we never take your loyalty for granted.

Apple iPhone 3G

Some stockings have all the luck.



Only
\$199
on select 3-year plans⁸

BRING IT ALL HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- › New plans from \$15 per month
- › Phones at \$0
- › New Owner's guarantee

SHOP AT FIDO.CA
Drop by a store
Call 1-888-766-3436

FIDO STORES

Kingsway Garden Mall
Londonderry Mall
Southgate Centre

EXCLUSIVE DEALERS

Northgate Centre
West Edmonton Mall
CELLULAR BABY
West Edmonton Mall
GENERATION WIRELESS
City Centre
OMEGACELL
10376 78 Avenue
UNIPAGE
Mill Woods Town Centre
West Edmonton Mall
Londonderry Mall

►► FUTURE SHOP

«WIRELESSWAVE»

booth
the telephone booth

WAL★MART



1. Local airtime minutes apply only within the **FULLFIDO** zone; additional minutes inside your zone and airtime used for calls made and received outside your **FULLFIDO** zone cost 35¢ per minute. 2. Applies to local airtime minutes only. Each additional minute costs 35¢. 3. Applies to messages sent from Canada to a Canadian wireless number. 4. Text messages received from another mobile phone are free. There is a charge per text message received via E-mail to your Fido and for premium text messages (alerts, messages related to content, contests and promotions). 5. Local calls only, excluding calls made through Call Forwarding (20¢/min.), Video Calling (35¢/min.), or similar services. 6. If you are subscribed to a Fido monthly plan offered before November 4, 2008, a set-up fee of \$25 per line applies. 7. Discount applies to monthly recurring service fees for eligible services. Not all services are available in all areas. Go to fido.ca/bundles for details. 8. Pricing based on 8 GB version with subscription to 3-year term plan with minimum \$30 monthly service fee. Early cancellation fees apply.

Applies to all plans: Local airtime over the allotted monthly minutes in the plan, long distance and roaming charges and any additional service options selected and applicable taxes are extra and are billed monthly. An Early Cancellation Fee applies to all subscribers with a Fido Agreement.

Subject to Fido's Acceptable Use Policy. Plans available until February 2, 2009. Fido reserves the right to change the products and services described in this document, as well as the pricing, at any time.

TMFido & design, **FULLFIDO** and FidoDollars are trademarks of Fido Solutions Inc. Rogers is a trademark of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license. Apple, the Apple logo and iPhone are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the US and other countries. All other brand names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Fido Solutions Inc.

the new
fido 
Giving low prices a good home.

Interest rates/Savings accounts
METRO NEWS SERVICES

BMO	CIBC	ICICI	ING	PCF	RBC	Scotia	TD
0.75%	0.2%	2.5%	2.7%	2.75%	2.5%	2.6%	0.05%

Note: Please check bank websites as some rates require a minimum account balance.

business 13

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

On bended knee, wallet open

SmartCookies



Believe it or not, December is the most popular time for wedding proposals. This month, men everywhere will talk to protective parents, kiss their single life goodbye and commit to thousands of dollars on an engagement ring.

So for all of you out there contemplating martial bliss, we know you have a lot of questions and are probably looking for some ways to keep your costs down. And trust us when we say skimping on the ring is not your best option.

Here are a few ways to help you stretch your dollar before you pop the question:

A Diamond is a Diamond, whether it's from Tiffany or Costco

The first step in choosing a diamond is having a clear understanding of the quality factors, commonly referred to as the "4C's": Colour, clarity, cut and carat.

Once you determine the combination that is right for you, we suggest you skip the brand-name. The only difference in a brand-name diamond is the label and the price tag — which can be up to 50 per cent more! And let's be honest, most of the women we know would rather have a bigger rock over a ritzy designer.

Ask for a Discount for Paying Cash

Depending on the profit margin, many jewellers will be willing to sell you your diamond at a lower price to avoid having to deal with fees from credit card companies.

Buying Rings as a Set Can Save Money

Often if you purchase

your engagement ring and wedding ring as a set, you can save.

White Gold Looks like Platinum but Is Less Expensive

If you are looking for silver-tone jewelry but don't want to pay platinum prices, consider a ring made of white gold. Not only is white gold less expensive, but it is actually harder to scratch and damage.

Something to be Said for Sentiment

If either you or your partner has a family heirloom, antique jewelry from a loved one can be some of the most beautiful and sentimental. But if it isn't exactly what you had in mind, consider personalizing it by upgrading the diamond or band. You will still likely save money in the long run.

How Much Should You Really Spend?

Spend what you feel comfortable with. Resist the pressure from advertisers who imply that if you

are not spending between one to three month's salary, you don't love your honey. Spend less, spend more, spend what YOU want. Just bear in mind this ring will be with you for a lifetime.

If you are looking for more money-saving tips, contact us at smartcookies@metronews.ca or visit smartcookies.com.

And check out our book, now available at bookstores everywhere: Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column poses the question: Should you borrow to invest now? Visit metronews.ca



Apply online: www.icicibank.ca

Dickens: Financial adviser?

Q Last month, our company went to a four-day work week. My wife continues to work but we could run into some problems sooner than later. Would a financial advisor help with our concerns? **Sondeep**

A Having a good financial advisor on your side is always good, particularly in these economic times. Set a time to see one.

Don't be Scrooge but instead learn from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The irony is that Dickens' initial inspiration to write this classic was his need to get out of debt.

Christmas Past

Some things, once broken, cannot be mended. Fortunately, credit is not one of them. Pull your credit and review carefully. Have the credit bureau correct any errors and negoti-

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

ate to pay off judgements. **Christmas Present**

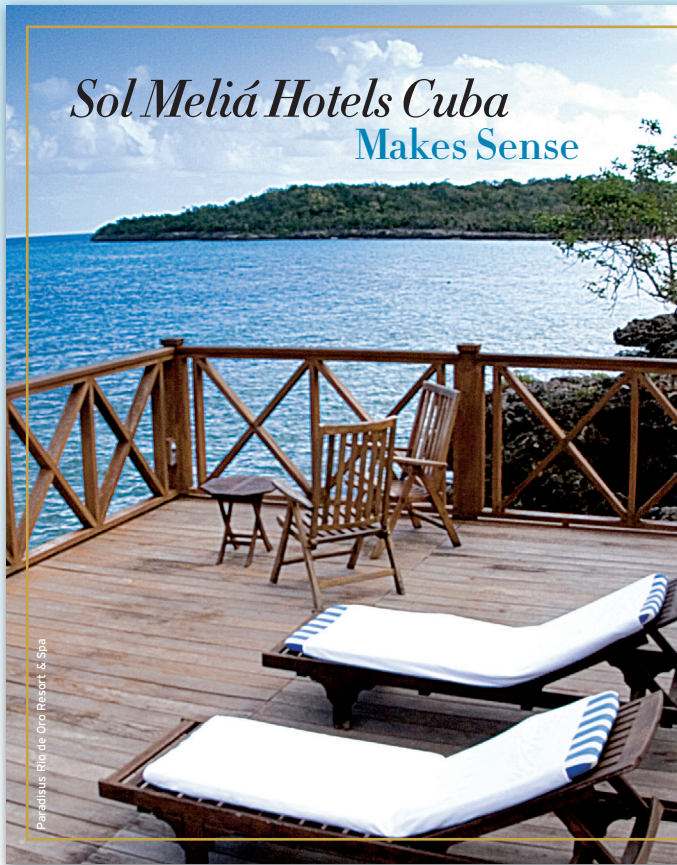
Plan now for the future. Create a household budget and stick to it. Pay all your bills on time, payments should not mimic the stock market.

Christmas Yet to Come

The steps you take now will have a direct impact on your financial future. Don't forget George Orwell's famous quote: "Who controls the past, controls the future: Who controls the present controls the past."

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

AIR CANADA VACATIONS



Sol Meliá Hotels Cuba Makes Sense

EARN UP TO 4,750 AEROPLAN® MILES PER MEMBER†

Santa Clara via Toronto Meliá Las Dunas • 4★

All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 5-28 • 1 wk.

\$1539

Taxes & fees: \$229
Please add \$50 for Sat. departures

Cayo Coco / Cayo Guillermo via Toronto TRYP Cayo Coco • 4★

All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1-28 • 1 wk.

\$1539

Taxes & fees: \$229
Please add \$50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

Varadero via Calgary Sol Sirenas Coral Resort • 3★

All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1, 8 & 22 • 1 wk.

\$1639

Taxes & fees: \$212

Varadero via Calgary Sol Palmeras • 4★

All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1, 8 & 22 • 1 wk.

\$1749

Taxes & fees: \$212

Paradisus Princesa del Mar • 5★

All-Inclusive
Junior suite
Feb. 1, 8 & 22 • 1 wk.

\$2279

Taxes & fees: \$212

Holguin via Toronto Paradisus Río de Oro Resort & Spa • 5★

All-Inclusive
Junior suite
Feb. 5-28 • 1 wk.

\$2179

Taxes & fees: \$229
Please add \$50 for Sat. departures

aeroplan



Sol Meliá Hotels CUBA

Makes Sense

CONNECT FREE! • Calgary • Lethbridge •
Nanaimo • Regina • Saskatoon

aircanadavacations.com
Call 1 866 529-2079 or your travel agent

Departure taxes are extra and must be paid locally: Cuba, 25 CUC cash. Prices in this ad are valid for bookings made between Dec. 16 & 20/08, inclusive. Prices are per person based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, from Edmonton International Airport. New bookings only. Subject to availability. Not applicable to group bookings. Sale prices reflect applicable reductions, are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion. Flights operated by Air Canada. For applicable terms and conditions, consult the Air Canada Vacations brochures. †Aeroplan Miles are not actual miles, but points towards rewards including travel rewards. Unless otherwise indicated, Aeroplan Miles indicated are based on roundtrip Economy class per passenger from Edmonton to Holguin via Toronto, are awarded on flight-inclusive travel only, and are per Aeroplan member. For the amount of Aeroplan Miles that can be earned when flying to other destinations, visit www.aircanadavacations.com. For terms and conditions of the Aeroplan program, consult www.aeroplan.com. ■ Available in conjunction with flight-inclusive packages. Non-stop flights via Edmonton. Excluding USA & Europe destinations. ■ Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Aeroplan Limited Partnership. *Air Canada Vacations is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license by Touram Limited Partnership. Visit www.aircanadavacations.com for up-to-date information.

An Ontario senior league hockey player suffered a severe head injury Friday when his helmet came off and he fell to the ice during a fight. Don Sanderson, a 21-year old York University student, remains in a coma at a Hamilton, Ont., hospital according to the team's website. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



"I think race was the No. 1 factor ... Out of all the coaches they interviewed, Chizik probably had the worst resume."

Former NBA star Charles Barkley to ESPN on his alma mater, Auburn, hiring Gene Chizik as head football coach. Barkley said University of Buffalo coach and former CFL player Turner Gill, who is black, was more qualified.

ESPN.COM

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sundin ready to make decision

NHL Former Toronto Maple Leafs captain Mats Sundin is expected to finalize his playing future as early as tomorrow.

Sources in Sweden say his Swedish representative Claes Elefalk has told media in Stockholm to call tomorrow to learn which team Sundin has chosen to continue his NHL career with.

That decision has been a source of both intrigue and yawns in Toronto, but the anticipation, which has been building since the Leafs dropped out of the playoff picture last April, should end certainly no later than the NHL holiday roster freeze, which begins Friday.

Sundin has ruled out both Philadelphia and Chicago.

Reports say the short list is now down to Van-



Mats Sundin this weekend and took in a Rangers game in a private box at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

The Rangers, though, also play the Leafs this season, and it's believed Sundin would rather avoid a scenario where he would face the Leafs in a new uniform.

Vancouver faces the Leafs in Toronto Feb. 21 while the Rangers play a home-and-home series with the Leafs beginning Feb. 22 in New York and returning to Toronto Feb. 25.

couver and the New York Rangers.

Sundin visited with Rangers GM Glenn Sather

Quinn chooses a new equation

One more blue-liner, one less forward, but fourth time a charm for Esposito

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



Team Canada's roster is set for a run at a fifth straight gold medal at the world junior hockey championship.

Head coach Pat Quinn and chief scout Al Murray unveiled their 22-man squad yesterday in Ottawa, and sent 16 players packing following a three-day selection camp.

The roster follows a non-traditional format, with 12 forwards and eight defence-men instead of the usual 13-7 breakdown. This was to accommodate 17-year-old power-play specialist Ryan Ellis, who is not ready for regular ice if injuries hit.

The team will be led of-



Angelo Esposito was chosen on his fourth try.

son and relative unknown Jamie Benn.

Tavares, of Oakville, Ont., is a big-name talent, a highly-touted prospect for next June's NHL draft.

He just turned 18, but already has 182 goals and 381 points in 222 games with the Ontario Hockey League's Oshawa Generals.

Returnees Thomas Hick-ey, the team's captain, and

fensively by re- turnees John Tavares and Zach Boychuk along with Vancouver Canucks first- rounder Cody Hodg-

son and relative unknown Jamie Benn.

Montreal Canadiens draftee P.K. Subban anchor the defence corps, along with NHL first-rounders Tyler Myers (Buffalo), Alex Pietrangelo (St. Louis) and Colten Teubert (L.A.).

In goal are Chet Pickard, a Nashville Predators first-rounder, and Memorial Cup MVP Dustin Tokarski.

Also of note, Montreal Junior forward Angelo Esposito made the roster after being cut three straight times.

The team's average age is 18.5, with one 17-year-old, eight 18-year-olds and 13 19-year-olds.

Notable cuts were hot-shot 17-year-old Taylor Hall of the Windsor Spitfires and high-scoring Evander Kane.

The tournament starts

Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.

2009 juniors

Goalies

- Chet Pickard, Dustin Tokarski

Defencemen

- Keith Aulie, Ryan Ellis, Cody Goloubef, Thomas Hickey, Tyler Myers, Alex Pietrangelo, P.K. Subban, Colten Teubert.

Forwards

- Jamie Benn, Zach Boychuk, Patrice Cormier, Stefan Della Rovere, Chris DiDomenico, Jordan Eberle, Tyler Ennis, Angelo Esposito, Cody Hodgson, Brett Sonne, John Tavares, Dana Tyrell.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Colorado 3 Detroit 2
San Jose at Los Angeles

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Atlanta at Ottawa
New Jersey at Toronto
Washington at N.Y. Islanders
Colorado at Philadelphia

Montreal at Carolina
Calgary at St. Louis
Phoenix at Dallas
Chicago at **EDMONTON**
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
New Jersey 94 Toronto 87
Atlanta 83 Charlotte 79
Indiana 118 Washington 98

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULT
Philadelphia 30 Cleveland 10

Kessel enjoying the ride after tougher times

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca



Before Phil Kessel could earn a passing grade in the National Hockey League, he had to learn not to cheat.

The 21-year-old, suddenly one of the league's hottest scorers, attributes his success to improved two-way play under Boston head coach Claude Julien — in particular, not vacating the defensive zone early to cherry-pick scoring chances. It's that type of "cheating" that had

Kessel in the press box as a healthy scratch in the playoffs last spring. "He (Julien) instilled that you have to play good two-way hockey to get offensive chances," he said. "Our whole team is playing good two-way hockey. It's creating good chances in the offensive end, starting in the defensive end."

The Bruins are one of the first-half surprises in the NHL, atop the Eastern Conference with a 21-5-4 record. Kessel has already tied his career high of 19 goals in just 30 games. He is riding an NHL-best 15-game points



Phil Kessel

streak and is the NHL's first star of the week. These days, Julien wouldn't even think of scratching the third-year winger. Kessel credits his success to linemates Marc Savard and Milan Lucic. Savard provides uncanny playmaking savvy; Lucic brings the brawn; and Kessel the sniper's touch. Together, they have 36 goals and 85 points in 30 games.

Kessel, drafted fifth overall

in 2006, has been through a lot in his young career. He was diagnosed with testicular cancer halfway through his NHL rookie campaign, but was pronounced cancer-free a week later after surgery.

He won the Bill Masterton Trophy for his dedication to hockey and has no lingering issues, only requiring a checkup every couple of months.

"We have a great bunch of guys," Kessel said. "We're winning, and when we show up to the rink, we're having fun."

VAL BERG'S
MENS WEAR GROUP

CITY CENTRE
10200 - 102 AVE, EDMONTON
780.424.3424

LENDRUM PLACE
5722 - 111 ST, EDMONTON
780.435.6470

bugatti

Metro is Canada's
#1 FREE
NATIONAL DAILY
newspaper.

metronews.ca

metro
Do it daily.

All through history the great religions have spoken to the return of a future Teacher. The Christians hope for the return of the Christ, the Buddhists look for the coming of a new Buddha, while the Muslims await the Imam Madhi, the Hindus a reincarnation of Krishna and the Jews the Messiah. How will we know Him? Surely He will ring our hearts with a message of sharing, justice and brotherhood. How can we prepare the way for Him? Each day brings opportunities, large and small, to act in favor of unity and justice. Our willingness to share will make a real difference in our world.

www.shareintl.org

It's a Diamond Christmas at Independent Jewellers

Free Gift Wrap Available
Financing Options Available
12 months. No set up fees. No interest. See in-store for details.

Design Your Own Stackable Collection, your choice Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire, or .33cttw Diamonds
EMERALD, RUBY, SAPPHIRE \$199 DIAMONDS \$399

Diamond Anniversary Ring in 14kt Yellow Gold, .50 - 1.00cttw
FROM \$749

INDEPENDENT JEWELLERS
STILL THE BIGGEST & STILL THE BEST... Place to Shop for Christmas

11248 - 170 STREET | PH: 780.484.6342 TOLL FREE: 1.800.896.4385
MORE GREAT GIFT IDEAS AT: WWW.INDEPENDENTJEWELLERS.NET

Reward dry, tired fingers

If you or someone on your Christmas list could use some healing power that lingers, try J.R. Watkins Cuticle Salve, \$4.79 to \$8.99. Perfect for gardeners, this all-natural salve comes in three fanciful flavours: Vanilla and lemon cream, aloe & green tea and mango. Available at watkinsonline.com. **METRO**



Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

In brief



STRANGE BUT TRUE

The stories of people who turn grey overnight are actually rare cases of sudden hair loss (which is related to a condition known as alopecia areata) that may leave only the more resistant grey hairs rooted in the scalp.

HAIR'S STEM CELLS

The abundant supply of stem cells that are in the hair bulb may one day be harnessed for a wide range of regenerative treatments, from wound healing to nerve repair.

BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

A cool workout

Snowshoeing is an accessible, easy exercise

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

Finding it tough to exercise in the winter? Snowshoeing is a very accessible form of physical activity.

All you need are a pair of snowshoes and some snow to enjoy this wonderful form of exercise. According to sports medicine expert Dr. Declan Connolly of the University of Vermont, "Snowshoeing is an effective, low impact, and safe form of exercise to change body composition. It burns up to twice the number of calories as walking at the same speed."

Snowshoes these days are made with light-weight metal frames and high-tech webbing, and are specifi-

cally designed for men, women or children. They generally

cost anywhere from \$80 to \$300.

Most people like to snowshoe with ski poles for support, but it is not absolutely necessary.

You can snowshoe in your local park, or go further afield into snowy forests and meadows. You can snowshoe for 20 minutes, or take off on an all-day hike with a backpack full of lunch, healthy snacks and water for rehydrating. The best fun is snowshoeing with other people. Snowshoeing al-

lows you access to places unreachable on skis or snowboards, and it's much cheaper!

If you get really good at this sport and have the stamina, you can run on snowshoes. The average man can burn 1,030 calories and the average women can burn about 700 calories an hour running with snowshoes.

Snowshoes are available at most sports stores.

Make exercise fun by teaming up with a friend for snowshoeing. You can venture out into your local park or into a snowy forest.

Lightweight

- The Crescent Moon Gold Series snowshoes, available in Canada at the Forzani group of stores, are being promoted as the most athletic snowshoe on the market; weighing only about four lbs.

CELIA MILNE/
FOR METRO CANADA



ISTOCK PHOTO

Women don't stress over sex

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

SEXUALITY Women seem to take sexual difficulties in strides. That is the conclusion of a survey of 31,000 U.S. women. Almost half of the women reported they suffered from problems with desire, arousal or orgasm. But only 12 per cent of women are worried, frustrated or embarrassed by a sexual problem, the survey found.

Distressing sexual problems were most common in women between the ages of 45 and 64. Women younger than 45 or older than 64 may have difficulties, but they are not as worried about them. The researchers' main conclusion was that sexual problems are quite common in



Only 12 per cent of women are worried or embarrassed by a sexual problem, a recent survey suggests.

women, and that those who are distressed by them should seek medical help. Results of the study were published in the November 2008 issue of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

LASIK MD
VISION

LASIK Now. Pay in 2010.

LASER VISION CORRECTION

Starting at

\$490 /eye*

NEW FINANCING

\$0	\$0	0%
Down	Payments	Interest
UNTIL JANUARY 2010†		



Dr. Richard Leger
MD, FRCSC
40 000 procedures

Get your life back again!

Start 2009 free of pain!

FJS REHABILITATION CONSULTING, Inc. Offers an effective treatment program of active exercise and rehabilitation in the water or land for back, neck and joint pain.

SPECIAL Introductory session - \$75/ one hour of individual rehabilitation.
One session is equal to 4 Physio appts.

Details @ www.fjsrehab.ca Metro Promo or 780.455.3052
Gift Certificates available until Dec 23rd.

FREE Consultation: 780-702-2020

EDMONTON: Edmonton City Center Mall,
10200 - 102 Avenue, Suite C107

www.lasikmd.com

* Prices are subject to change without prior notice. Prices vary based on prescription strength. Applicable to surgery on both eyes only.
† Subject to Desjardins Card Services credit approval. No payments, no interest until January 2010.

Halifax | Montréal | Ottawa | Toronto | Winnipeg | Calgary | Vancouver





Keep lips hydrated and looking gorgeous with CoverGirl's limited edition Wetlicks Holiday Gift Pack, \$14.99. Perfect for yourself or a friend, the pack includes three glosses: AmazeMint, Fruit Spritzers and Wetlicks lip gloss. Available at most drug stores. **METRO**

Hook ups peak over the holidays

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

Seems presents aren't the only things people are shopping for in the holiday rush. According to a recent study from speed dating service FastLife.ca, hook ups peak in the period leading up to the holidays.

In the last three years, FastLife noticed that speed-dating match rates hover around 82 per cent on average from January to October, but by the end of November match rates rise to 95 to 100 per cent where they remain until the new year.

I realize it's in their interest to encourage hook ups, but it makes sense. With all the parties and family get-togethers at this time of year we all want someone to smooch under the mistletoe or to get a misguided gift



Hooking up with someone is easier around the holidays. According to a recent survey by dating service FastLife.ca, match rates rise to 95 to 100 per cent by the end of November.

from.

And, as Gabriela Asenjo, FastLife's events manager, says, "People let their guard down more easily and are less picky at pre-Christmas events."

But, while it may be easy as shooting fish in a barrel to hook up with someone who will (theoretically, at least) help ease that lonesome feeling through the

holidays, actually surviving the holidays together might prove to be a little more challenging.

Take this quiz to see if your relationship will make it:

1. You bring your date to your office party:

a) You can't have fun because you've constantly got your eye on your date fear-

ing he's telling your colleagues about how the CIA covered up his alien abduction.

b) Your colleagues go on and on the next day about what a catch your date is.

c) At the end of the night, you find your date under your desk making out with your boss.

2. Your date's idea of a great

Christmas gift is:

a) His and hers matching door-stoppers.

b) A romantic weekend away and a tasteful nude self-portrait.

c) Waiting until after Christmas "when everything's on sale" to get your gift.

3. One of you isn't Christian, how do you celebrate the holidays?

a) Say you'd be happy to celebrate Christmas, if afterwards, your honey agrees to a week-long Buddhist retreat where you chant for eight hours a day.

b) Light the menorah and spin the dreidel before exchanging gifts under the Christmas tree.

c) Tell your date to deal, you're not about to let a little thing like someone's religion spoil your holiday.

4. Your mom gives your date a really ugly sweater as a gift, you:

a) Force your sweetie to wear it and then giggle maniacally.

b) Wear it to bed with him ... with nothing on under-

neath.

c) Come across it later in a bucket full of rags your date uses to clean the floor.

5. An ex gives your date an expensive present:

a) Tell the ex you bought your date the same thing but took it back because you thought it was tacky.

b) Call up the ex to say thank you for the gift, and send an invite for dinner.

c) "Accidentally" trip over it and break it.

If you answered mostly a's, put on your helmets, hide all sharp objects and you might make it.

If you answered mostly b's, dust off your copy of It's a Wonderful Life and warm up some rum and cider. You guys will make everyone sick with your holiday bliss.

If you answered mostly c's, there's still time to end things before you blow a wad of cash on him or her.

Happy Holidays and good luck!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

ORGANIKA

ISO 9001 certified company

Helps your body to assimilate vitamins, proteins & other nutrients. Also assists the body in proper digestion and elimination carbs and fats. Stops you from feeling bloated after your holiday feasts. So enjoy the holiday season and don't forget your Full Spectrum Plant Enzymes. Bon a petit.

GOOD DIGESTION

Full Spectrum Plant Enzymes

120 vegetarian capsules / capsules végétaliennes

www.organika.com

Cut this advertisement out to receive 20%-25% off Plant Enzymes (all 4 sizes)! Expires: 01.16.09

OPTIMUM Health / Edmonton, Alberta

Sherwood Park 780-467-6650

Oliver Square 780-452-5705

South Edmonton 780-432-5464

For extra discounts visit us online www.optimumhealthvitamins.com

Give her a Day of Beauty

Indulge her with 5 hours of pampering from head to toe...

- deep cleansing facial
- manicure
- makeup application

- body massage
- pedicure
- champagne lunch

Plus a free spa gift

Edmonton
11311-104 Ave.
424-2487

Enter online to win
A Day of Beauty!
focus-on-you.com

St. Albert
25 St. Michael St.
460-9971

Dark Knight makes AFI list
Batman film The Dark Knight has been named as one of the Top 10 movies of 2008 by the American Film Institute. Others include political biopic Milk, animated fantasy Wall-E and Brad Pitt's The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment



Nobel Man
Bono has been awarded the annual Nobel Man of Peace prize for his efforts to combat poverty, debt and disease in Africa. The U2 frontman was honoured at a ceremony in Paris.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

The Human touch

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Brandy's new album Human tackles the subject of celebrity head on.

Speaking the day before the album's release, Brandy (full name Brandy Norwood) said the project reflects a desire to be more up-front and personal — a tough choice in today's pop culture. "It seems like everything's perfect (with celebrities), but it's not, (and) emotionally we're all the same," said the singer, who released her first album as a teenager. "I've been able to achieve all my dreams, and I love having achieved so much at a young age. But I realize there's quite a lot going on in the public eye ... people can make judgments."

This statement is particularly true given the degree to which celebrities' private lives are captured and broadcast. Along with the usual suspects, Brandy too felt the sting of public perception after she revealed she wasn't actually married to the father of her daughter Sy'rai, Robert Smith. She felt like the story would come out



Human, the latest album from R&B singer Brandy, is now in stores.

eventually, and so decided to approach it head-on, on the cusp of an album release. "Back then) I was feeling like I had to be dishonest about the situation," said Brandy. "Being a role model, people look up to you, and

you don't want to disappoint them ... (and you're) under so much pressure. "I wanted to tell the truth and say that honestly won't happen again." This strategy to directly confront personal stories

extends to Brandy's new album. A group effort, with Brandy collaborating with several writers and producers, the songs focus on relationships, as heard on tracks like Long Distance and album closer Fall, a duet co-written with British pop singer Natasha Bedingfield. "Natasha is the sweetest person — her energy and vibe is amazing," said Brandy. "Fall is about not being afraid to be in love, even if you're scared. We had so much fun recording the song. We were like little kids in the studio, having fun but still working hard. "The Human (concept) is just about being you — being who and what you are," she said. "I'm trying to describe what's it's like to be a human being, since that's what we all are at the end of day."

Madonna settles divorce

Madonna has paid her ex-husband British director Guy Ritchie up to 60 million pounds (\$92 million US) to settle their divorce after eight years of marriage, her spokeswoman said yesterday.

Liz Rosenberg said the singer, 50, had given Ritchie, 40, between 50 and 60 million pounds (\$76 million and \$92 million) as part of their divorce, which was granted by a British court on Nov. 21. She said that sum includes the couple's English country estate, Ashcombe, which is valued at about 20 million pounds (\$30 million). The couple's combined wealth has been estimated at about \$525 million, but Madonna accounts for most of it. Rosenberg said custody arrangements for the couple's children have not been finalized. Madonna and Ritchie have an 8-year-



Madonna

old son, Rocco, and 3-year-old son David, adopted from Malawi. The singer also has a daughter Lourdes, born in 1996, from her relationship with fitness trainer Carlos Leon. Madonna, one of the most successful singers of all time with estimated album sales of more than 200 million, was married once before, to actor Sean Penn, in the 1980s. Madonna and Ritchie announced their split in October, nearly eight years after their wedding. **REUTERS**



Read this week's DVD reviews online at metronews.ca/entertainment

IntelleVision



Rick McGinnis
Read it at metronews.ca

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

GlobalStyle



Kenya Hunt
Monica Cruz on Mango, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

NEED A MORTGAGE Specialist?



Call Kelly Parkinson for all your Mortgage Needs!
780.690.4363

FD	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order "Zero"		Without a Trace (N)		Criminal Minds		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N)				Momma's Boys
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen.				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		NCIS "Silent Night" (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Without Trace
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		According-Jim	According-Jim	Privileged (HDTV)		Hates Chris	Friends	Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	NCIS "Silent Night" (N)		House (HDTV PA)		(10:01) Kitchen Nightmares		News Hour
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Antarctique	Madagascar ★★ (2005, Comédie) (SC)			Les Bougon français (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	The Insider (N)		A Charlie Brown Christmas		According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone
	16	KAYU	- 373	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)		(10:01) Fringe (HDTV)		News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	The Insider (N)	E! News	Momma's Boys (N)		The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N)				News (N)
	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Nova (HDTV) (DVS)			Wild! (DVS)		Independent Lens (HDTV) (N)		
	24	WTVS	- 364	Brain Fitness	Change Your Brain, Change Your Life			Magnificent Mind at Any Age-Amen			The Brain Fitness Program	
	15	CBCN	502	-	CBC News: The National	Wal-Mart Nation		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Wal-Mart Natn
	21	TWN	505 398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500 500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
news	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504 508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	20	TSN	400 400	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)			Sportsnet Con.	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected	In This Corner	Poker Night
	23	net	408 418	(6:30) NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at St. Louis Blues. (Live)				Sportsnet Con.	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected	Best-Sports	Super Bikes!
sports	47	SPEED	417 406	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!
	94	SCORE	410 403	(5:30) Court Surfing		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	9	EDACC	267 351	Arts & Minds	Arts & Minds	Eli Stone (HDTV) (N)		Fringe "The Arrival"		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Arts & Minds
	14	YTV	552 543	Christmas That Almost		OddParents	Rocko's Life	Mon. Warriors	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
family	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555 545	The Side Show Christmas		Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	-	TVA	121 714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Anges de la rénovation		Monk (SC)		Musico-graphie René Angeliil.		TVA 22 heures
cable variety	18	CMT	575 583	(6) The Sons of Mistletoe		Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615 520	The First 48 (HDTV)		Manhunters: Fugitive		Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	26	MMM	571 581	Listed		Celebrity Wrestling		Tommy Lee	Revival	Party of Five		Celeb Wrestle
	29	FOOD	603 561	The F Word		Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		The F Word
	31	SHOW	617 522	EastEnders	Vivienne Vyle	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)		Testees	Trailer Park	House
	32	DISC	520 505	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs		Daily Planet		Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs
	33	SLICE	601 562	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Matchmaker	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade		Trading Sp
	34	W	602 567	He Sees You When		Friends	Will & Grace	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.		
	35	TLC	521 560	Mystery Diagnosis		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Shocking Story		Mystery Diagnosis		Med. Examiner
	36	BRAVO	620 523	One Night With Barry Manilow		Bravo!Videos		Law & Order "Stiff"		Without a Trace		Small Back Rm
	38	SPIKE	628 584	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers	MANswers	CSI: NY "Stealing Home"		Trek: Voyager
	40	HIST	522 506	Ax Men		NCIS "Frame-Up"		Crime Stories "Laser Man"		Ax Men		Worst Jobs
	41	COM	626 547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman
	43	SPACE	627 528	Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains		Rabbit Fall (N)	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1		Lost		Deep Space 9
	44	WPCH	294 650	(6) Land of the Dead (2005)		Steve Harvey	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Land of the Dead ★★ (2005, Horror)		
	46	OLN	411 457	Angry Planet	Word Travels	Which Way to...		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman
	48	TROP	619 525	Planet Soap	Big Screen	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	50	STAR	621 527	Fabulous Life	Off the Leash	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	Hollywood	The View (HDTV)		Off the Leash
	52	HGTV	600 564	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes on Homes		Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Pure Design
	65	TLN	700 800	Nati Ieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos (SS)		David Rocco
	92	APTN	269 350	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay (N)	Rez Rides	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing	First Nation	Rabbit Fall	Moccasin Flats
	93	VISION	261 394	The Christmas Shoes (2002, Drama)		Rob Lowe.		Celtic Angels at Christmas		The Christmas Shoes (2002, Drama)		
	100	MTV	581 566	A Double Shot of Love		A Double Shot of Love		MTV Live	After	Dance Life	Dance Life	Double Shot
	101	MM	570 580	So You Think You Can Dance Canada				VMA 08 Remix Celeb Replay				MuchOnDem
	102	CPAC	512 396	(6:30) Headline Politics			Revue	Question Period		Prime.-Politics	Headline Politics	
	103	VIVA	526 507	The West Wing		Encounters	In Dreams	Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy		Commander
	105	TV5	145 761	Orage	Chateaux	Champ. nature	Humanima	Journal TV5	Les Carnets du bourlingueur		Club social	
	106	RDI	126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal

critics' corner

Holiday Wishes

After three versions of "Freaky Friday" and about a gajillion different retellings of "The Prince and the Pauper," do we really need another one? Someone thinks so, hence this syrup-fest about a spoiled rich girl and an orphan who switch bodies, just in time to give and receive some lessons in the True Meaning of Christmas. 10 PM on W



One Night With Barry Manilow

Recorded for the BBC in 2004, this 90-minute special features the singer-songwriter performing in an intimate setting. His rendition of "Can't Smile Without You" is especially memorable. The special also includes footage of Manilow's 1975 appearance on the British show "The Midnight Special". 7 PM on BRAVO

NCIS

Gibbs and the rest of the team are forced to put in overtime while searching for a suspect on a case over Christmas. The real problem arises when they discover their prime suspect has been dead for 17 years. Talk about your "Silent Nights." 8 PM on CITV: 9 PM on KREM



Christina Hendricks, who plays the bombshell head secretary on the Emmy-winning *Mad Men*, is engaged to actor Geoffrey Arend. No wedding date has been set. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

The Britney and Madonna tour?

RUMOUR Britney Spears is planning to unveil pop star Madonna as a surprise guest when she kicks off her comeback tour next year, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Spears joined Madonna onstage in Los Angeles last month during the U.S. leg of her *Sticky & Sweet* tour, and Spears wants Madonna to return the favour when she hits the road in New Orleans, La., in March.

"I'm choreographing and set-designing her show," Spears' choreographer Wade Robson reveals. "There's been talk of Madonna making an appearance, and there's so many places we could take that. At this point the main issue is timing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES/PHOTOS

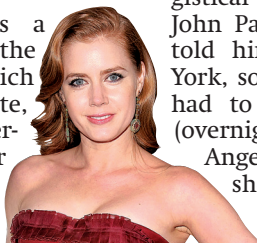
Adams an eager actress

CAREER Amy Adams begged Doubt director John Patrick Shanley to cast her in the movie, even after he offered her part to Natalie Portman, *imdb.com* reports.

Adams was a huge fan of the story, which Shanley wrote, and was desperate to appear in the big screen adaptation, despite the odds being stacked up against her.

Even after Portman said no, and Adams was offered the role of Sister James, she had to overcome a logistical problem. "I lied to John Patrick Shanley and told him I was in New York, so when he called, I had to get the red eye (overnight flight) from Los Angeles, to get there," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Watts welcomes second child

BIRTH Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber welcomed their second boy Saturday, *People.com* reports.

A couple since 2005, Watts, 40, and Schreiber, 41, already have a boy, Alexander Pete Schreiber,

born July 26, 2007. Earlier this year, Watts boasted of her first-born, "He's turning pages in the book. He's crawling and standing up. He can wave. I read Goodnight Moon to him every night."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Fame carries trade offs: Will

FAME Actor Will Smith is happy to sign autographs for fans, because it means he can leap to the front of the queue in posh restaurants, *imdb.com* reports.

Smith insists he never moans about the constant attention he receives from paparazzi or movie-goers as it is the price he pays for fame. And he is adamant that by always agreeing to give fans his signature, he earns the right to be treated like a star.

"By being

famous, you're afforded rights that other people who aren't famous aren't afforded. If I'm going to walk to the front of the line (at the restaurant) because I'm Will Smith, then I have to sign all the autographs," Smith tells *USA Today* newspaper. "If I don't want to sign any autographs, I don't walk to the front of the line. It's that simple. Stand in the line with everybody else."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Osbourne in hot water after insult leads to scrap

DISPUTE Sharon Osbourne is under police investigation after allegedly scuffling with a contestant during a taping of her U.S. reality TV show *Rock Of Love: Charm School*, *imdb.com* reports.

Osbourne is said to have flipped when Megan Hauserman insulted her by saying she is only famous because of her marriage to Black Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne. The rock matriarch

allegedly ran across the stage, grabbed Hauserman by the hair, and scratched her.

TMZ.com reports that the pair had to be pulled apart by security guards.

Hauserman went to hospital the following afternoon and filed a report with the Los Angeles Police Department that night.

Authorities have confirmed Osbourne is a suspect in a minor battery allegation but that no charges have been filed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Moss cancels bash on partner's orders

RELATIONSHIP Kate Moss has cancelled her proposed New Year's Eve party on the orders of her boyfriend, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

The supermodel was planning to attend a star-studded bash in St. Tropez, in the South of France, but her Kills guitarist partner Jamie Hince has insisted she spend the day at home with him and her six-year-old daughter,

Lila Grace, from a previous relationship.

The couple will see in 2009 at her Oxfordshire home, in the United Kingdom.

"They're back together but they are still arguing about how much Kate goes out," a source says. "Jamie says Kate needs to calm her lifestyle down but she still likes to party. She loves him but she hates the fact he tries to rein her in all the time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



No rush to have kids: Eva

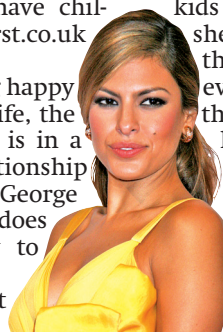
PEOPLE Eva Mendes is in "no rush" to have children, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Despite being happy in her private life, the actress — who is in a long-term relationship with producer George Gargurevich — does not feel ready to start a family.

"It's great that

women can work and have kids but I'm in no rush," she said. "I was joking the other day that everywhere you look there is a celebrity having a baby, and I said I hoped I didn't catch it. There are just so many things I want to do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lazing around is sexy: Beyoncé

PEOPLE Pop star Beyoncé Knowles feels sexiest for husband Jay-Z when lazing around her house with bare feet and messy hair, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

"Our relationship is very easy," she says, British tabloid *News of The World*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Workaholic Jay-Z decks out studio

CAREER Rapper Jay-Z has reportedly furnished his recording studio with a sleep-sized sofa, a bar table, bar stools and a glass coffee table because he spends so much time there, *PageSix.com* reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



SHARE THE LAUGHTER THIS HOLIDAY!

"SURE TO BE A HOLIDAY CLASSIC."
— Jeffrey Lyons, "REEL TALK"/NBC TV

CHRISTMAS BONUS!

ON DVD AND BLU-RAY: DIRECTOR COMMENTARY AND 25 MINUTES OF ADDITIONAL SCENES • **EXCLUSIVE TO BLU-RAY:** VINCE AND PAUL FIRESIDE CHATS
FRED CLAUS: RACE TO SAVE CHRISTMAS DVD GAME • PAUSE FOR CLAUS: ELVES TELL ALL • SIBLING RIVALRY WITH VINCE VAUGHN, ROGER CLINTON, WILLIAM BALDWIN AND FRANK STALLONE • LUDACRISMAS MUSIC VIDEO

Buy it Now on DVD and Blu-ray!

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A SILVER PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DAVID DOUBYN PICTURES AND JESSIE NELSON PRODUCTIONS A FILM BY DAVID DOUBYN VINCE VAUGHN PAUL GIAMATTI "FRED CLAUS" WENDIE RICHARDSON JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS ELIZABETH DAVIES
WITH RACHEL WESZ AND KATHY BATES AND KEVIN SPACEY COSTUME DESIGNER ANNA SHEPPARD EDITOR VINCE VAUGHN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRISTOPHE BECK AND MARK LINDSEY, A.C.E. PRODUCED BY ALLAN CAMERON PRODUCED BY JEFFREY LYONS, A.C.E. WRITTEN BY PAUL HITCHCOCK
DIRECTED BY DAVID DOUBYN
CASTING BY JESSIE NELSON AND DAN FOLEYMAN
COSTUME DESIGNER ANNA SHEPPARD
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VINCE VAUGHN AND DAN FOLEYMAN
PRODUCED BY JESSIE NELSON AND DAVID DOUBYN
WRITTEN BY PAUL HITCHCOCK
DIRECTED BY DAVID DOUBYN

fredclaus.net warnervideo.com wbbighdef.co

© 2008 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved.



Today
Cloudy and snow
-14 C / -20 C



Wednesday
Cloudy and snow
-18 C / -20 C



Thursday
Some clouds, snow
-21 C / -25 C



Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television
“My favorite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it’s always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.”
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35				36	37			
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47						48				49		
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

Crossword across

- 1 Provo’s state
5 Big bother
8 Snare
12 Bargain basement event
13 Mediterranean, e.g.
14 Crosby’s longtime pal
15 Cicatrix
16 Cooperstown non-hon-oree
18 Flower’s fleshy fruit
20 “Psycho” locale
21 Exactly as written
22 Pirate’s beverage
23 Follows orders
26 Pelvis portion
30 Kanga’s kid
- 31 Suitcase
32 “Smoking or —?”
33 Arid
36 Pottery fragment
38 Afternoon affair
39 Gorilla
40 Halloween figure
43 Terra firma
47 Fred Mertz, for one
49 Entreaty
50 Sheltered
51 Egg — yung
52 And others (Lat.)
53 Rolling stone’s lack
54 Springtime mo.
55 Lasso

Crossword down

- 1 Cold War initials
2 Mexican entree
3 “Sad to say”
4 Inquisition crime
5 Jellied mold
6 Profound
7 Cereal grass
8 Blood clot (Pref.)
9 Source
10 Church section
11 Rind
17 Shoot- — (violent movie)
19 That guy’s
22 Predetermine
23 Sphere
24 Greet the villain
25 A billion years
26 Dinner for Dobbin
- 27 Three-match link
28 Neither mate
29 Conclusion
31 Underwear with underwire
34 Chopin pieces
35 Farmer’s place?
36 James Bond, e.g.
37 Assistant
39 Passion
40 Showy attractiveness
41 Angel’s topper
42 Individuals
43 Let fall
44 Chorus member
45 Tide variety
46 Evans or Carnegie
48 “Son — gun!”

PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	L	T	O	D	E	C	S	T	A	B
B	O	O	N	I	M	A	T	I	D	E
A	C	R	E	S	U	P	R	E	M	E
B	I	N	D	E	R	S	E	V	E	N
		G	A	O	L	F	E	Z		
S	U	P	E	R	B	A	D	N	O	N
E	K	E	P	E	P	E	S	N	U	N
Z	E	T	A	S	U	P	P	R	E	S
		E	D	O	P	E	R	I		
E	R	R	A	N	T	N	Y	L	O	N
S	U	P	P	O	S	E	D	I	R	O
P	L	A	T	A	G	O	N	A	N	O
Y	E	N	S	R	O	N	G	L	O	W

4	3	1	6	9	8	7	2	5
8	2	7	3	5	1	6	9	4
9	6	5	2	4	7	1	8	3
2	9	4	8	1	5	3	6	7
3	5	6	4	7	2	8	1	9
1	7	8	9	3	6	4	5	2
6	4	3	1	2	9	5	7	8
5	1	2	7	8	3	9	4	6
7	8	9	5	6	4	2	3	1

Find today’s answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Bean and Mushroom Burgers

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 15-oz (400-g) can red kidney beans
- 2 medium red onions, about 8 oz (200g) in total
- 4 tbsp (60 mL) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) raw sugar
- 8 oz (200 g) button mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) garam masala
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) whole-wheat flour
- 1 small bunch of fresh mint
- Salt and black pepper

METHOD:

- 1. Rinse beans well and spread out on a dish towel to drain. Peel onions.
- 2. For red onion relish, heat 1 tsp (15 mL) of olive oil in saucepan. Slice one onion thinly and add to pan with vinegar and sugar. Bring to boil, stirring, then reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 15–20 minutes, until onion is softened and slightly sticky, stirring from time to time. Remove pan from heat and keep warm.
- 3. Quarter other onion and put into a food processor. Clean mushrooms, add to the onion, and process until finely chopped. Alternatively, chop them both finely by hand.
- 4. Heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of olive oil in frying pan, add onion-and-

mushroom mixture, and cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally for 5–8 minutes, until golden and dry.

- 5. Peel garlic and crush into mushroom mixture. Stir in garam masala and flour, and cook for 1 minute. Chop enough mint to make 2 tbsp (25 mL). Remove pan from heat, add mint, and season with salt and pepper.
- 6. Put kidney beans on a deep plate and mash firmly with potato masher, then stir in cooled mushroom mixture.
- 7. Divide mixture into four and, with lightly floured hands, shape each serving into a burger.
- 8. Heat remaining 2 tbsp (25 mL) oil in a large frying pan, add bean burgers, and cook over medium-high heat for 6–8 minutes, turning once, until well browned. Warm pita breads.
- 9. Arrange burgers on a warm dish or individual plates and spoon onion relish over tops. Serve with warm pitas and a green salad.

SERVES 4

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2								8
	9	3				7	5	
			6	4	7			
		1	5	8	2	9		
8	5						6	1
		7	1	6	3	5		
			8	2	9			
	8	9				4	2	
6								3

Horoscopes

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Jealousy will cause a man to lose the plot. A sudden reversal makes you pensive. Someone’s sarcasm takes on new meaning.



LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
An older person will be forgotten. Your feelings are obvious to a tough guy. You can consolidate your gains by playing for keeps.



TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Being reliable and motivated will do wonders for your health. Role playing will cause a problem. Wastefulness will get a lot of attention.



SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don’t struggle against fate — accept yours with a smile. Boastful words can be irritating at home. A dilemma may lead to a spat.



GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A truth-teller will enjoy a victory. A sweetheart finally learns to apologize. Harmful brainwashing can be eliminated with effort.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A solitary guy finds happiness. An infamous friend becomes involved in an argument. Silly strife is less than thrilling.



CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Simply ignore other people’s temper tantrums. Good manners will lead you into a superb offer. A serious person’s hopeless plan will be praised.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don’t seethe over a grievance. An opponent will knock on your door. Don’t fool around trying to change the facts of life.



LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Avoid a friend who has been in your way. Your resistance to decadence will weaken. You can enjoy a crisis if you’re not forced to deal with it.



AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A man is deeply unhappy about his rights. An explanation is out there, but you must find it. Contact with a hardship case stirs up memories.



VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You’ll become a strong and mighty influence. All will be well with a passionate guy. An awkward individual will reveal a mystery.



PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A rift in a friendship results from a brazen smile. Peevish remarks will wound others. A heartache will dumbfound everyone.



TELL METRO READERS WHAT YOU THINK
NEW "COMMENT & VIEWS"
Whether you agree or disagree about anything you’ve read in Metro, we want to know. Send us your views and pick up Metro daily to find out what other Metro readers are saying. Email your letters to edmontonletters@metronews.ca **metro** Do it daily.

It’s a Diamond Christmas at Independent Jewellers
Enter to Win
Cross over Journey Rings set in 14kt White or Yellow Gold, .25 - 1.00ctw **\$499**
Journey Pendant & Earrings Set in 14kt White Gold, .50 - .75ctw **\$799** **\$599**
11248 - 170 STREET | PH: 780.484.6342
TOLL FREE: 1.800.896.4385
MORE GREAT GIFT IDEAS AT: WWW.INDEPENDENTJEWELLERS.NET

This day in history
DEC 16, 1497: Vasco da Gama rounds the Cape of Good Hope, the point where Bartolomeu Dias had previously turned back to Portugal.
DEC 16, 1907: Great White Fleet started its circumnavigation of the world.
DEC 16, 1965: Vietnam War: General William Westmoreland sends U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara a request for 243,000 more men by the end of 1966.
DEC 16, 1985: Mafia: In New York City, Paul Castellano and Thomas Bilotti are shot dead on the orders of John Gotti, who assumes leadership of the Gambino family.

GOING TO WORK? MAKE SURE YOUR MONEY IS TOO.

1% BONUS

Grow your savings even faster with a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA)

Open a TFSA High Rate Savings Account today. Beginning January 2nd, 2009, you can transfer up to \$5,000 in new money from your High Rate Savings Account to your TFSA High Rate Savings Account, plus keep the 1% bonus interest rate.² With every penny earning bonus interest and the income earned on your savings tax-free, your money will work even harder to speed up the growth of your savings.

For a limited time, earn an extra 1% interest¹ on top of HSBC's already high rates on new money deposited into a High Rate Savings Account as of November 24, 2008.

Visit your local HSBC branch, call 1-888-310-4722 or click hsbc.ca/taxfree to supersize your savings.

HSBC 

The world's local bank

Issued by HSBC Bank Canada

¹You will earn 1% bonus interest on top of our High Rate Savings Account interest rate on any new monies deposited into your High Rate Savings Account (up to \$500,000) during the promotional period of November 24, 2008 to March 16, 2009 from the day new monies are deposited. This promotion may be amended, extended or cancelled at the sole discretion of HSBC at any time, without prior notice. ²Specific terms and conditions apply. The 1% bonus interest will be applicable on any new monies transferred in from your High Rate Savings Account to your High Rate TFSA for the remainder of the Promotional Period. Please see your local HSBC branch for details, visit hsbc.ca/taxfree or call 1-888-310-4722. This promotion may be amended, extended or cancelled at the sole discretion of HSBC at any time, without prior notice.